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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,967	11/09/2001	Robert Bruce Gage	1466-US	3775

7590 12/09/2004
Teradyne Inc.
30801 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

EXAMINER

ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2116

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/008,967

Applicant(s)

GAGE ET AL.

Examiner

A Elamin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8,9,11-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3,7,10 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vishakhadatta et al, US. Pat. No. 6,111,712.

3. Claims 1, 8, 15, Vishakhadatta teaches a clock system for distributing and generating a digital clock signal for a plurality of electronic assemblies [*abstract, col. 3, line 60 thru col. 4, line 7*], the clock system including:

a remote fixed-frequency clock for generating a first clock signal of a first frequency [*reference clock 402 of Figs. 4 & 5*];

a plurality of local clock modules respectively disposed on the plurality of electronic assemblies [*PLL2A, PLL2B and PLL2C of Fig. 5*], the local clock modules including synthesizer circuitry for creating a variable clock signal of a different frequency than the first frequency [*Fig. 4*]; and

fan-out circuitry coupled between the remote fixed frequency clock and the plurality of local clock modules to distribute the first clock signal [*Fig. 5, col. 9, lines 22-43*].

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4. Claims 2, 9, Vishakhadatta teaches the synthesizer circuitry comprises a direct-digital-synthesizer having an input for receiving the clock signal of a first frequency [*element 418 of Fig. 4*], and a phase-locked-loop disposed at the output of the synthesizer [*PLL2A, PLL2B and PLL2C of Fig. 5*].

5. Claims 4, 11, Vishakhadatta teaches the synthesizer and the phase-locked-loop cooperate to generate a clock signal of a second frequency greater than the first frequency [*col. 9, lines 22-43*].

6. Claims 5, 12, Vishakhadatta teaches the plurality of electronic assemblies include respective pattern generators having clock inputs tied to the outputs of the respective clock modules. [*col. 10, lines 5-31*].

7. Claims 6, 13, Vishakhadatta teaches at least two of the clock modules generate local clocks of different frequencies for the respective pattern generators [*col. 9, lines 22-43*].

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 16-18 are allowed.

9. Claims 3, 7, 10, 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A Elamin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3674. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A Elamin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

December 6, 2004

 **A. ELAMIN**
PRIMARY EXAMINER